(c) the unified action plan of both countries to control threats of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On December 11 2004, India and Slovakia signed the following three key bilateral documents with the Government of Slovakia during the State visit to India of Slovak President, H.E. Dr. Ivan Gasparovic:

(i) Economic Cooperation Agreement;

(ii) Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture and Arts for the period 2004-2007.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and National Agency for Development of Small & Medium Enterprises.

(c) In a joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the State visit, both sides reiterated their commitment to continue their fight against terrorism. They agreed that combating terrorism has to be a comprehensive and sustained efforts.

Talks among India-America and laea

Talks among India-America and IAEA

2536. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-America and International Atomic Energy Agency have held mutual talks, recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the talks; and

(c) the agreement reached among the three after the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A joint delegation of representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the US visited New Delhi on 9 February, 2005 for a meeting on the Regional Radiological Security Partnership (RRSP) programme. During the meeting, the three sides acknowledged their shared objective of enhancing globally the security of dangerous radio-active sources. The

IAEA and the US delegates also expressed appreciation for India's offer of providing infrastructure and expertise on a regular basis for conducting international training courses in India under the aegis of the IAEA on issues related to the security of radiological sources and materials as also for locating orphan radio-active sources in countries which are unable to effectively deal with them and which seek assistance from the IAEA. The three sides agreed to continue further discussions on the subject.

Opening of Regional Passport Offices

†2537. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to open Regional Passport Offices in newly created States like Chhattisgarh, Uttaranachal and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, by when these are likely to be opened and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government had decided to open Passport Offices in the capital cities of the newly created States of Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchai and Jharkhand. A Passport Office has been opened in Ranchi in 2003. However, owing to staff constraints, it is not possible to open the other two Passport Offices, at present.

Indo-Candian cooperation

2538. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the India and Canada have agreed to work together with collaboration of some other countries in development of International Tsunami Warning System;

(b) whether the two countries also decided to set up bilateral cooperation in science and technology, environment, trade and investment promotion; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.